

section 2(a)(1), under the same terms and conditions as were in effect prior to the expiration of the privileges.

(b) EFFECT OF CHANGE IN LAND USE.—If, during the period of the study or until such time as the recommendations of the study are implemented, any portion of the land described in section 2(a)(1) is disposed of in a manner that would result in the land no longer being used for ranching or other agricultural purposes, the Secretary of the Interior shall cancel the extension described in subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN].

Mr. HANSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 708 and urge its adoption. Senator THOMAS of Wyoming introduced similar legislation in the form of S. 308 in the Senate. The Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held hearings on that legislation and it has been widely supported by the people of Jackson Hole, WY, the administration, conservation groups, and the ranching community.

I applaud the gentlewoman from Wyoming [Mrs. CUBIN] for her hard work on this issue and I am pleased to be sending this message to the President for his signature after it is worked out with the Senate.

H.R. 708 recognizes the increasing demand on private lands within the Jackson Hole area of Wyoming and the benefits that open space and ranching provide Grand Teton National Park. This legislation would require the Secretary to conduct a study concerning grazing and open space in and around Grand Teton National Park. Moreover, the Secretary must analyze the benefits of existing ranching and grazing operations to wildlife, the national park, and other public benefits.

This legislation initiated by the gentlewoman from Wyoming recognizes the development pressures on resort lands in and around national parks. If the public policy is to drive these long-held ranching families out of business, we must be prepared to deal with the consequences of ranches being sold to pay the estate taxes and development into resort communities.

In some groups' zeal to drive livestock grazing off the public lands, we are leaving no alternative to these landowners but to sell out to developers. The gentlewoman from Wyoming has convinced the people of Jackson Hole to stand back and take another look at this situation and assess the benefits of these ranches on wildlife and the park itself. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 708.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I wish to thank the chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, the gentleman from Utah, [Mr. HANSEN], for his management of this legislation, and also the chief sponsor of this legislation, the gentlewoman from Wyoming [Mrs. BARBARA CUBIN] for her leadership in providing this legislation for our consideration.

Madam Speaker, the goals of H.R. 708 are quite laudable. The National Park Service and the Jackson Hole community are concerned that the ranchlands and open space surrounding Grand Teton National Park may be developed, furthering the loss of wildlife habitat, migration routes, and scenic values.

Much of the land south of Grand Teton has already been developed or is under pressure of development. H.R. 708 provides for a study to determine if there are viable means to preserving open space and ranching operations for the benefit of both the park and the community.

When the Committee on Resources held a markup of H.R. 708, an amendment in the nature of a substitute was adopted that incorporated many of the suggested changes made by the National Park Service. The changes that were made improved the bill. This study has the potential to be a win-win situation for both the park and the local community. I hope that this is the case and look forward to seeing the final study.

Madam Speaker, I support H.R. 708, as amended, and urge my colleagues to approve this proposed bill.

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, Jackson Hole, WY is one of the most beautiful and unique areas of our Nation. Over 3 million visitors per year come to hike, camp, ski, and sightsee amidst the grandeur of the Teton range and the winding Snake River in Grand Teton National Park and the Greater Yellowstone area beyond.

Many wildlife species such as moose, bear, eagles, and trumpeter swan make the valley their home, while the largest elk herd in the lower 48 states annually migrates through it to winter on the wildlife refuge at its southern end.

While much of the valley is protected in perpetuity by Federal ownership, some of the most valuable wildlife habitat, migration routes, and scenic vistas remain in private ownership as working ranch lands.

Conservation groups in Jackson Hole and around the country have worked for years to help protect these ranches from development through the use of scenic easements and other means and are to be commended for their good work.

The concept of preserving and protecting parts of the Teton Range and Jackson Hole date from the time settlers moved into the valley in the late 1800's. In January 1929 the U.S. Senate reported on a bill to establish Grand Teton National Park and stated:

The Teton range presents the most profoundly impressive view in America. It is a gift

to the Nation and posterity in which the people of Wyoming may be proud, and the wilderness surrounding them may be preserved in their natural state for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of these United States and future generations to come.

In 1950, the act establishing Grant Teton National Park allowed the continuation of grazing privileges within the boundaries of the new park for the life of the designated heirs of the current holders of grazing permits.

Early management of the park determined that managing cattle in a concentrated area with irrigated grass was less destructive to the resource and less intrusive to the visiting public than random grazing throughout the park.

The purpose of my legislation, H.R. 708, is not about granting special grazing rights; it is about doing the right thing to maintain the scenic wonderment that encompasses this magnificent area and keep the area open for wildlife, especially migratory elk.

This pristine land obviously comes with a price tag. Real estate prices have skyrocketed, and intense development pressure has occurred because of this fact.

Through this legislation I have worked in cooperation with officials from Grant Teton National Park to resolve many issues. I know that all parties involved in this matter are striving to reach the same goal: maintain the scenic beauty that those of us who have been fortunate enough to spend time in the Tetons will continue to enjoy the park for a long time to come.

I have incorporated some changes to the legislation proposed by the Park Service during the National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee hearing this summer, and the bill reflects some, but not all, of those changes.

Mr. Speaker, I am dedicated to maintaining the highly valuable open space and ranching culture in this vicinity of the park. The authorization of a 3-year study will allow time to explore a network of relationships and avoid the indiscriminate development that will occur on these pastoral lands.

Mr. HANSEN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 708, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study concerning grazing use and open space within and adjacent to Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, and to extend temporarily certain grazing privileges."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within

which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 708, the legislation just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT OF 1997

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1787) to assist in the conservation of Asian elephants by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of Asian elephants and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of Asian elephants, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1787

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Asian elephant populations in nations within the range of Asian elephants have continued to decline to the point that the long-term survival of the species in the wild is in serious jeopardy.

(2) The Asian elephant is listed as an endangered species under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and under appendix I of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

(3) Because the challenges facing the conservation of Asian elephants are so great, resources to date have not been sufficient to cope with the continued loss of habitat and the consequent diminution of Asian elephant populations.

(4) The Asian elephant is a flagship species for the conservation of tropical forest habitats in which it is found and provides the consequent benefit from such conservation to numerous other species of wildlife including many other endangered species.

(5) Among the threats to the Asian elephant in addition to habitat loss are population fragmentation, human-elephant conflict, poaching for ivory, meat, hide, bones and teeth, and capture for domestication.

(6) To reduce, remove, or otherwise effectively address these threats to the long-term viability of populations of Asian elephants in the wild will require the joint commitment and effort of nations within the range of Asian elephants, the United States and other countries, and the private sector.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are the following:

(1) To perpetuate healthy populations of Asian elephants.

(2) To assist in the conservation and protection of Asian elephants by supporting the conservation programs of Asian elephant range states and the CITES Secretariat.

(3) To provide financial resources for those programs.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) The term "CITES" means the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, signed on March 3, 1973, and its appendices.

(2) The term "conservation" means the use of methods and procedures necessary to bring Asian elephants to the point at which there are sufficient populations in the wild to ensure that the species does not become extinct, including all activities associated with scientific resource management, such as conservation, protection, restoration, acquisition, and management of habitat; research and monitoring of known populations; assistance in the development of management plans for managed elephant ranges; CITES enforcement; law enforcement through community participation; translocation of elephants; conflict resolution initiatives; and community outreach and education.

(3) The term "Fund" means the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund established under section 6(a).

(4) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Agency for International Development.

SEC. 5. ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, subject to the availability of funds and in consultation with the Administrator, shall use amounts in the Fund to provide financial assistance for projects for the conservation of Asian elephants for which final project proposals are approved by the Secretary in accordance with this section.

(b) PROJECT PROPOSAL.—Any relevant wildlife management authority of a nation within the range of Asian elephants whose activities directly or indirectly affect Asian elephant populations, the CITES Secretariat, or any person with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of Asian elephants, may submit to the Secretary to project proposal under this section. Each proposal shall include the following:

(1) The name of the individual responsible for conducting the project.

(2) A succinct statement of the purposes of the project.

(3) A description of the qualifications of the individuals who will conduct the project.

(4) An estimate of the funds and time required to complete the project.

(5) Evidence of support of the project by appropriate governmental entities of countries in which the project will be conducted, if the Secretary determines that the support is required for the success of the project.

(6) Information regarding the source and amount of matching funding available to the applicant.

(7) Any other information the Secretary considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the project for funding under this Act.

(c) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Within 30 days after receiving a final project proposal, the Secretary shall provide a copy of the proposal to the Administrator. The Secretary shall review each final project proposal to determine if it meets the criteria set forth in subsection (d).

(2) CONSULTATION; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—Not later than 6 months after receiving a final project proposal, and subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary, after consulting with the Administrator, shall—

(A) request written comments on the proposal from each country within which the project is to be conducted;

(B) after requesting those comments, approve or disapprove the proposal; and

(C) provide written notification of that approval or disapproval to the person who submitted the proposal, the Administrator, and each of those countries.

(d) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary may approve a final project proposal under this section if the project will enhance programs for conservation of Asian elephants by assisting efforts to—

(1) implement conservation programs;

(2) address the conflicts between humans and elephants that arise from competition for the same habitat;

(3) enhance compliance with provisions of CITES and laws of the United States or a foreign country that prohibit or regulate the taking or trade of Asian elephants or regulate the use and management of Asian elephant habitat;

(4) develop sound scientific information on the condition of Asian elephant habitat, Asian elephant population numbers and trends, or the threats to such habitat, numbers, or trends; or

(5) promote cooperative projects on those topics with other foreign governments, affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector.

(e) PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY.—To the maximum extent practical, in determining whether to approve project proposals under this section, the Secretary shall give consideration to projects which will enhance sustainable integrated conservation development programs to ensure effective, long-term conservation of Asian elephants.

(f) PROJECT REPORTING.—Each person who receives assistance under this section for a project shall provide periodic reports, as the Secretary considers necessary, to the Secretary and the Administrator. Each report shall include all information required by the Secretary, after consulting with the Administrator, for evaluating the progress and success of the project.

(g) MATCHING FUNDS.—In determining whether to approve project proposals under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to those projects for which there exists some measure of matching funds.

(h) LIMITATION ON USE FOR CAPTIVE BREEDING.—Amounts provided as a grant under this Act may not be used for captive breeding of Asian elephants other than for release in the wild.

SEC. 6. ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the general fund of the Treasury a separate account to be known as the "Asian Elephant Conservation Fund", which shall consist of amounts deposited into the Fund by the Secretary of the Treasury under subsection (b).

(b) DEPOSITS INTO THE FUND.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit into the Fund—

(1) all amounts received by the Secretary in the form of donations under subsection (d); and

(2) other amounts appropriated to the Fund.

(c) USE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may use amounts in the Fund without further appropriation to provide assistance under section 5.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—Of amounts in the Fund available for each fiscal year, the Secretary may use not more than 3 percent to administer the Fund.

(d) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS.—The Secretary may accept and use donations to provide assistance under section 5. Amounts received by the Secretary in the form of donations shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into the Fund.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years